

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended): In combination:

a ladder having a ladder top, a ladder front, a ladder back and ladder sides;

a holder for holding tools and other objects, said holder including a holder top panel positioned over and engaging the ladder top and a holder front panel attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder front; ~~and~~

at least one securement strap extending between and interconnecting said holder top panel and said ladder retaining said holder top panel in engagement with said ladder top to at least partially cover the ladder top and prevent substantial relative movement between said holder top panel and said ladder top, said holder front panel being flexible and having a free front holder panel lower distal end spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder front panel not being directly attached to said ladder and readily movable relative thereto whereby said holder front panel is free to shift position under the influence of gravity relative to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder front panel from becoming disengaged from said holder front panel and falling from said holder; and

holder side panels attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder sides, said holder side panels being flexible and having free holder side panel lower distal ends spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder side panels not being directly attached to said ladder and readily movable relative thereto whereby said holder side panels are free to shift position along with said holder front panel under the influence of gravity relative to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder side panels from becoming disengaged from said holder side panels and falling from said holder, at least one of said holder front panel and holder side panels including an open topped pocket for holding a tool or other object, shifting of position of the holder front panel and holder side panels causing a shift of position of said open topped pocket relative to said ladder to maintain the open top thereof disposed above the remainder of said open topped pocket.

2 (canceled)

3 (canceled)

4 (currently amended): The combination according to Claim 2 1 wherein said holder side panels have free holder side panel edges extending along said ladder sides and spaced from one

another to define a void at the ladder back and below said holder top panel.

5 (original): The combination according to Claim 4 wherein said holder top panel includes a flexible holder top panel portion extending downwardly from said ladder top over said void.

6 (original): The combination according to Claim 5 wherein said ladder is a step ladder and wherein said at least one securement strap extends between and secures together said flexible holder top panel portion and a step of said step ladder.

7 (original): The combination according to Claim 6 wherein said flexible holder top panel portion includes a reinforcement strip, said at least one securement strap being attached to said reinforcement strip.

8 (currently amended): The combination according to Claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said holder front panel and said holder side panels each include an open topped pocket for holding a tool or other object, shifting of position of said holder front panel and said holder side panels causing a shift of position of said open topped pockets relative to said ladder to maintain the open tops thereof disposed above the remainder of the respective open topped pockets.

9 (canceled)

10 (currently amended): The combination according to Claim 2 1 wherein said holder top panel, said holder front panel and said holder side panels are all formed of flexible material.

11 (canceled)

12 (previously presented): The combination according to Claim 1 wherein said holder top panel completely covers the ladder top.

13 (new): A ladder having a ladder top, a ladder front, a ladder back and ladder sides;

a holder for holding tools and other objects, said holder including a holder top panel positioned over and engaging the ladder top and a holder front panel attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder front;

at least one securement strap extending between and interconnecting said holder top panel and said ladder retaining said holder top panel in engagement with said ladder top to at least partially cover the ladder top and prevent substantial relative movement between said holder top panel and said ladder top, said holder front panel being flexible and having a free front holder panel lower distal end spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder front panel not being directly attached to said ladder whereby said holder front panel is free to shift position under the influence of gravity relative

to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder front panel from becoming disengaged from said holder front panel and falling from said holder; and

holder side panels attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder sides, said holder side panels being flexible and having free holder side panel lower distal ends spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder side panels not being directly attached to said ladder whereby said holder side panels are free to shift position under the influence of gravity relative to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder side panels from becoming disengaged from said holder side panels and falling from said holder, said holder side panels having free holder side panel edges extending along said ladder sides and spaced from one another to define a void at the ladder back and below said holder top panel, said holder top panel including a flexible holder top panel portion extending downwardly from said ladder top over said void, and said ladder comprising a step ladder and said at least one securement strap extending between and securing together said flexible holder top panel portion and a step of said step ladder,

and said flexible holder top panel portion including a reinforcement strip, said at least one securement strap being attached to said reinforcement strip.

14 (new): In combination:

a ladder having a ladder top, a ladder front, a ladder back and ladder sides;

a holder for holding tools and other objects, said holder including a holder top panel positioned over and engaging the ladder top and a holder front panel attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder front;

at least one securement strap extending between and interconnecting said holder top panel and said ladder retaining said holder top panel in engagement with said ladder top to at least partially cover the ladder top and prevent substantial relative movement between said holder top panel and said ladder top, said holder front panel being flexible and having a free front holder panel lower distal end spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder front panel not being directly attached to said ladder whereby said holder front panel is free to shift position under the influence of gravity relative to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder front panel from becoming

disengaged from said holder front panel and falling from said holder; and

holder side panels directly attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder sides, said holder side panels being flexible and having free holder side panel lower distal ends spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder side panels not being directly attached to said ladder whereby said holder side panels are free to shift position under the influence of gravity relative to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder side panels from becoming disengaged from said holder side panels and falling from said holder.

15 (new): In combination:

a ladder having a ladder top, a ladder front, a ladder back and ladder sides;

a holder for holding tools and other objects, said holder including a holder top panel positioned over and engaging the ladder top and a holder front panel attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder front;

at least one securement strap extending between and interconnecting said holder top panel and said ladder retaining

said holder top panel in engagement with said ladder top to at least partially cover the ladder top and prevent substantial relative movement between said holder top panel and said ladder top, said holder front panel being flexible and having a free front holder panel lower distal end spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder front panel not being directly attached to said ladder whereby said holder front panel is free to shift position under the influence of gravity relative to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder front panel from becoming disengaged from said holder panel and falling from said holder; and

holder side panels attached to the holder top panel and depending downwardly therefrom to partially cover said ladder sides, said holder side panels being flexible and having free holder side panel lower distal ends spaced from and disposed below said holder top panel, said holder side panels not being directly attached to said ladder whereby said holder side panels are free to shift position under the influence of gravity relative to said ladder and relative to said holder top panel upon tilting of the ladder from a vertical orientation to prevent tools or other objects held by said holder side panels from becoming disengaged from said holder side panels and falling from

said holder, said holder side panels having free holder side panel edges extending along said ladder sides and spaced from one another to define a void at the ladder back and below said holder top panel, said holder top panel including a flexible holder top panel portion extending downwardly from said ladder top over said void, and said ladder including a rung, said at least one securement strap having a hook connected thereto and extending between and securing together said flexible top panel portion and said rung due to locking engagement of the hook with said rung.